

What is claimed is

1 1. A method for commercialization of intellectual property (IP), the
2 method comprising the steps of:

3 (a) providing a comprehensive, centralized network of service
4 provider members, each member having expertise in at least one facet of IP
5 commercialization;

6 (b) offering an interested party access to the network; and

7 (c) members of the network providing services to the interested
8 party.

1 2. The method of claim 1 wherein the interested party has an
2 interest in receiving information, data, or a combination thereof regarding at least one
3 aspect of IP and the method further comprises the steps of:

4 (d) collecting data relating to at least said one aspect of IP; and

5 (e) disseminating said data to at least said interested party.

1 3. The method of claim 2 wherein the information comprises
2 ranking information identifying, classifying, comparing, ranking and evaluating one or
3 more IP assets, entities that own or control IP, or sources of IP, and the method further
4 comprises compiling said ranking information.

1 4. The method of claim 3 further comprising using said ranking
2 information to recognize innovation by presenting awards to top ranked entities.

1 5. The method of claim 1 wherein the interested party is also a
2 member of the network.

1 6. The method of claim 1 wherein the members of the
2 comprehensive network comprise inventors, government entities, research and
3 development (R&D) and manufacturing entities, IP specialists, providers of business
4 services, and IP marketplace providers.

1 7. The method of claim 1 wherein the services provided by the
2 network comprise one or more services in the group consisting of: prior art search
3 services; legal services; financial services; prototyping services; model making
4 services; manufacturing; testing services; industrial design services; commercial art
5 services; marketing services; IP valuation services for assigning tangible value to IP
6 assets; IP audit services; services that provide R&D project analysis, evaluation, or
7 both; insurance services, security analysis services; and management consulting
8 services,

1 8. The method of claim 1 wherein the method further comprises
2 creating a financial market for IP assets where IP assets, or securities based upon IP
3 assets, can be bought and sold.

1 9. The method of claim 1 wherein the method further comprises
2 providing a certification program for certifying IP analysts qualified to provide tangible
3 valuation of IP assets.

1 10. The method of claim 1 wherein the method further comprises
2 providing an educational program comprising education in accounting, financial, legal,
3 and actuarial skills for educating individuals how to provide tangible valuation of IP
4 assets.

1 11. The method of claim 1 wherein the method comprises providing a
2 trade show in which a plurality of the service providers exhibit information to others
3 about the services offered by the service providers.

1 12. The method of claim 11 wherein the facet of IP
2 commercialization in which each member has expertise corresponds to a step in a
3 natural life cycle of an IP asset, the trade show having a physical layout organized with
4 the service providers grouped together according to step in the IP asset life cycle.

1 13. The method of claim 12 wherein the service providers are
2 grouped into legal service providers, business service providers, pre-market service
3 providers, commercialization service providers, and after-market service providers.

1 14. The method of claim 12 wherein the trade show includes a
2 dedicated marketplace for buying, selling, auctioning, and bidding on IP assets.

1 15. A method for commercialization of intellectual property (IP), the
2 method comprising the step of providing a trade show in which a comprehensive
3 network of service providers exhibit information to others, each service provider
4 having expertise corresponding to at least one step in a natural life cycle of an IP asset,
5 in which the service providers are grouped in a physical layout at the trade show by
6 association with a corresponding step in the IP asset life cycle.

1 16. The method of claim 15 wherein the service providers are
2 grouped into legal service providers, business service providers, pre-market service
3 providers, commercialization service providers, and after-market service providers

1 17. The method of claim 15 wherein the trade show includes a
2 dedicated marketplace for buying, selling, auctioning, and bidding on IP assets.

1 18. The method of claim 1 wherein the access to the network is
2 provided by means of a global computer network or by telephone.

1 19. The method of claim 18, wherein the access further comprises:

2 (b1) providing a dedicated site on the global computer network
3 accessible by the interested party;

4 (b2) providing computerized means for digitally receiving a request
5 for information about one or more service provider members from the interested party;

6 (b3) providing a database of records relating to the service provider
7 members searchable by the computerized means in response to the request for
8 information; and

9 (b3) providing the requested information to the interested party.

1 20. The method of claim 19, wherein step (b2) comprises receiving
2 characterizing information pertaining to the interested party, and matching a service
3 provider member to the interested party based upon the characterizing information.

1 21. The method of claim 20, wherein the characterizing information
2 comprises information selected from the group consisting of: type of IP about which
3 the interested party desires the information, subject area of the IP, and the geographic
4 region of the interested party.